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THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2013

Chasing fires

Lamb goes from clerk to fire services
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On the bunny trail

Easter Bunny on way to Port Colborne
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Ready to be sold

Wainfleet road allowance on the block
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Parking charge?

It may cost to part at Augustine Beach
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IMPORT NEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 11 VOLUME 17

For news updated daily see www.importnews.ca

■ YOUTH

Smooth sailing in skatepark

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Tristan Sorge was born skateboarding since he was four years old.

He's hit parks all over Niagara and participated in competitions across Ontario, but it wasn't until recently that he really put his skills to the test in his hometown.

Sorge was one of dozens of youths who hit Port Colborne's new marine-themed skateboard and BMX

park on Tuesday. He has been there every day since the gates opened Saturday.

City staff got the park ready for a "soft opening" prior to March break to give students a chance to test it out while on their week-long vacation.

The still-fenced-in facility will be closed again following the break to allow for some final details to be completed, said chief administrative officer Bob Heil, but a grand opening is expected to take place sometime in April.

see SKATEPARK | page 2



A group of BMX riders spent Tuesday of 1st week moving through the new marine-themed skateboard and BMX park at Port Colborne's Lock 8 Park.

MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

HometownRealEstateGuy.com
Michael Smith
SALES REPRESENTATIVE
TOP 10 RLP AGENT 2012
ROYAL LEPAGE
PH: 905.834.9000
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'PORT COLBORNE'S TOP "RLP" PRODUCER 2012

Thinking of a move this spring?? Not sure when to put your home on the market?? In 2012 the average time on the market in Niagara for a home is almost an entire year, followed by an additional 30 to 40 days for a closing date...so if a new home in the SPRING is in your plans...

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134 Wellington St., Port Colborne NEW LISTING



A real dollhouse...great 3 bedroom starter home, extensively upgraded w/ newer bath, windows, doors, deck, furnace, electrical services...ideal east side Port Colborne location with no side neighbours. \$118, 900

upfront

■ SKATEPARK

Boarder loves being close to home



MARIYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

D.J. Dempsey took on the wave track Tuesday at Port Colborne's new marine-themed skateboard and BMX park.

FROM PAGE 1

Called the Algoport Skatepark — named after sponsor Algoma Central Corp. — the \$846,377 facility is located in Lock 8 Park along the Welland Canal.

It was worth every penny in Sarge's mind.

"I love that it's so smooth," the fifth-grader said of the park on a brief break from hitting the ramps.

It means a lot to him, he said, to have a park so close to home because "I've been skateboarding for more than half my life, and I love it."

Though he's skated at every park in Niagara and even some outside of the region, Sarge said Port

\$846,377
Cost of Algoport Skatepark
1,079
Square metres in size
10

Percentage of the cost of the mayor's youth advisory council has committed to raising

Colborne's takes the cake.

"This has definitely been my favourite place."

The Steele Street Public School student plans to visit the park each and every day, not willing to let chilly temperatures like those felt Tuesday deter

him from practising.

And it seems he's not the only one.

"I haven't seen my grandson in three days," quipped Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet at Monday night's council meeting as he spoke of the facility opening.

"It's been shoulder-to-shoulder," he said of the lakeside city's new hot spot.

"That place has been used like you wouldn't believe."

While he was pleased to see the facility packed, Doucet offered up a gentle reminder that it is only open from sunrise to sunset.

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■ CAREERS: Tanya Lamb leaving township after nine-year role

Wainfleet clerk moving to Welland fire services duty

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — After nine years serving as Wainfleet's clerk, Tanya Lamb made the gut-wrenching decision to leave her position and take on a new role in a neighbouring municipality.

"I was offered a position to be the administrative assistant to the fire chief in Welland," said Lamb on Wednesday.

Her resignation was handed in at her very last township council meeting as clerk.

"During the national anthem I almost started to cry. I realized it would be the last time I sat around the council table. I was very sad when I handed in my resignation."



I'm excited beyond belief and can't believe I've been given this opportunity."

Tanya Lamb

Still, Lamb is also excited about her career change. She takes over her new job on Tuesday, March 26.

As Wainfleet's clerk, Lamb worked with every department, including fire services.

"I've always felt a pull there. I've had a keen interest and passion for the fire department ... being in the action. I have a great deal of respect for what they do."

As clerk, Lamb developed skills she believes will help and be valuable in her new role.

The decision to take the job in Welland was also made for personal reasons. It means she'll be closer to home — she lives in the city — and closer to her husband and two children, ages 5 and 2.

"It made sense for my desires and my family."

She accepted the position earlier this month. Her last day in Wainfleet is Friday, March 22.

"I'm excited beyond belief and can't believe I've been given this opportunity," she said.

Mayor April Jeffs found out Lamb was leaving the township one hour before council started its Tuesday night meeting.

"Tanya was very emotional when she told us during closed session," said Jeffs.

When Jeffs and the current council were first elected, Lamb was on maternity leave with her second child.

"I had known her before ... she was always great to me when I came in as a resident to ask her questions."

The mayor said when Lamb came back from maternity leave, there was a difference at council. Jeffs said Lamb got information out to council quickly and was a great support.

"Staff here have a lot on their plates and Tanya was always willing to take on extra tasks. She was always up for it and got things done. She had a positive attitude and you could go to her with anything. She'll absolutely be missed."



Former Wainfleet clerk Tanya Lamb.

File photo

portraits

■ **STELLA CROUCH:** Welland-Port Colborne Concert Association artistic director passes the torch

30 years and dozens of sold-out shows

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — It isn't hard to slave over a project when it's a labour of love.

That's what kept Stella Crouch going as artistic director of Welland-Port Colborne Concert Association.

But last November, after putting 30 years of blood, sweat and tears into more than 180 concerts and performances, and saying she couldn't have been happier to do it, she felt it was time to let go of the reins.

The position may have been a volunteer gig, but it was her career and she spent countless hours researching, watching and critiquing performances, contacting bands and putting schedules together.

"I thought it was time to step down and pass the torch to someone else," she says. "It's been very rewarding and I've enjoyed every minute of it."

Assuming her role is long-time friend and board member Rosamund Battye, whom Crouch has no doubt the association will flourish under her leadership, too.

"I've been grooming her for years," Crouch says. "I have full confidence in her abilities and I'm not worried in the slightest."

Crouch will continue to serve as an honorary director, but the 82-year-old St. Catharines resident is wondering what else to do with her future. She's an avid tennis player at Welland Tennis Club and plays bridge often, but she says she needs to find something in the arts and culture field to fill her time.

"I need to keep busy. I'm not the kind of person to sit around. I'll go crazy with nothing to do," she says.

The secret to keeping young is "keeping busy."

Crouch's passion for the arts was something Michael and Anna Skowronski instilled in their daughter.

Crouch was born in Guelph and moved to Toronto in 1941.



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Stella Crouch takes time to enjoy the music having stepped down as the artistic director for Welland Port Colborne Concert Association after 30 years in the role.

She started dancing and singing with Polish dance groups and travelled all over Ontario performing such ethnic dances as the Krakowiak at a wide variety of events. In 1948 she and her group went to Ottawa to perform for the Governor General and stayed at the Polish consulate.

"Singing and dancing was just what young Polish children did. It was part of my culture. I

enjoyed it. I had a great time," she says.

A friend convinced her to go on a blind double date with a Welland boy in 1951 and she fell head over heels for him.

She married Phillip Crouch in 1955 and he became her partner in every aspect of her life — he was concert association's lawyer and helped her make every decision until his death in 2010.

She loved Phil, but when she moved to Massey Hall she missed going to Massey Hall for world-renowned performances almost whenever she wanted.

A friend from the tennis club asked her to join what was at the time Welland-Port Colborne Community Concert Association in 1971. She chaired various operating committees until she became president in 1982.

One of her crowning achievements as artistic director was severing ties with Colombia Artist Management Inc. which provided the association with performers.

"They gave us mostly American acts and we wanted to show more Canadian performances and some international ones," Crouch recalls.

It was one of the best things the board did, she adds.

In 1984 Crouch managed to bring the Royal Winnipeg Ballet to Welland. Tickets were sold out in less than 48 hours. Staff even over-sold the show. More than 100 people crammed into the auditorium.

Since that time the association shows have remained sold out. There are more than 700 people on the membership waiting list and it takes five to six years to get a membership.

Crouch believes the association has enjoyed its longstanding success because of its variety.

"I have always said something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue," she says. "We bring quality performers and people enjoy them."

She and fellow volunteers Battye and publicity chair Cheryl Maurice hand-picked these performances yearly at the Ontario Council conference, where touring artists and performers showcase their talents.

Crouch enjoyed those trips immensely and will miss them. For the time being she will continue to visit her daughter Leanna Crouch and grandson Hartlea Crouch and granddaughter Charlene Crouch in Toronto once a month and visit her other daughter Linda Crouch and grandsons Matthew and Jeremy Squires who live in St. Catharines as often as possible.

She still intends to find other volunteer projects to keep her busy.

"I've had a great life with so much fun and now it's time to move on to something different and start a new chapter," she says.

The association plans to hold a farewell reception in Crouch's honour after its next concert featuring the Russian Ballet on Sunday, March 24, at Welland Centennial Secondary School. Members are invited to stay and enjoy light refreshments and good company.

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Questions hang in air over cancelled gas plants

Among unanswered questions about the Liberals' decision to cancel two natural gas plants leading up to the 2011 Ontario election, a key one involves Premier Kathleen Wynne. Wynne has described the Liberals' decision to cancel the two unpopular projects in Oakville and Mississauga as a "political" one, meaning it was done to save a handful of Liberal seats in that election.

Wynne has been emphatic on this point. As she put it last month, "I have never said this wasn't a political decision. It was a political decision."

Wynne has also said she wasn't involved in any decisions or meetings to cancel the Oakville plant in 2010 or the Mississauga plant just two weeks before the Oct. 6, 2011, election, in which she served as the Liberals' campaign co-chair.

How is it possible the Liberals' campaign co-chair wasn't involved in a political decision two weeks before the election to cancel the Mississauga plant, to save the political hides of some Liberal MPs?

And if even the Liberal campaign co-chair wasn't involved, then who was?

Wynne has promised to testify before the legislature's justice committee on the gas plant cancellations and we'll be looking forward to her answers.

While we're at it, if the Liberals weren't trying to hide anything about their decision to close the two gas plants, why do documents related to them keep showing up under such bizarre names as Project Apple, Project Fruit Salad, Project Banana and Project Vapour?

It's no wonder new government documents keep turning up related to the gas plant cancellations every time the Liberals assure us they've delivered the lot of them. Either their filing system sucks or they didn't want these documents to be found.

Finally, we had testimony last week of independent energy expert Bruce Sharp, who estimates real cost of cancelling the Oakville gas plant isn't the \$40 million Grits claim, but \$638 million. Sharp agreed with the \$190 million estimate the Liberals have given for cancelling the Mississauga plant just before the 2011 election, although he says they could have saved at least \$28 million by driving a harder bargain on gas delivery costs.

Maybe we should just take the Liberals at their word about all these issues. After all, when have they ever lied to us before?

■ COLUMN

FR. DAVID GRAHAM SCOTT
 St Ignatius of Antioch Orthodox Church

The fifteenth chapter of St Luke's Gospel gives us three pictures of how much God and his angels rejoice when one sinner repents. The lost sheep is found. The lost coin is found. The lost son is found.

The parable's father had two sons. The elder would inherit two-thirds of his estate and the younger son, one third. The younger son wanted his inheritance now and he used it to go to a far country and to have fun. He spent his inheritance having fun, and when his cash ran out, he found himself so impoverished that he had nothing to eat.

Hunger told him that his father's servants were better off than he was. And so he decided to go back home and humbly ask his father for a servant's job. This is an image of repentance: coming to oneself realistically, admitting unworthiness, turning away from fun City and taking the steps necessary to return to our Father in heaven.

The parable's father has been looking for his son's return and when he saw

him, he ran to meet him and give him a big hug. The young man began to say that he had starved, but before he could ask for a job, his father called on his servants to bring new clothes and a ring for the boy and to kill the fatted calf.

In baptism we have put on Christ (Galatians 3:27) baptism in faith constitutes the prodigal's new clothes and the ring of renewed relationship with the Father. In the Banquet of the Lamb of God we are made a new creation, a temple of the Holy Spirit, and heaven rejoices.

The elder son who will inherit twice what his brother received hears the rejoicing and gets very angry. He will not enter into the festivities. He abuses his father for not giving him even a goat to party with his friends and for killing the prized fatted calf for a spendthrift and a lowlife.

The father reminds his elder son that he has always been with him. Does his relationship with his father mean nothing to him? Does his being fed and clothed, loved and cherished, mean nothing to him? Has he wasted his years with his father by ignoring their relationship?

The father also reminds his elder son that his brother is his own flesh and blood, that he is his brother's keeper, that his brother is his life (St Silvanus) and that hell is not other people (Sartre) but the prison of the self. And his brother was hungry and thirsty and naked and sin-sick (Matthew 25:37-40) — was dead but is alive again, was lost and is found.

The father's love for his two sons shines the grace of God. Both sons were prodigals though in different ways. The younger son wasted his inheritance. The elder wasted the precious years with his father and wasted this opportunity to be present with his brother.

Far better for us to rejoice in God's desire for the sinner to repent and live (Ezekiel 18:30-32). Far better to desire with God that all people might be saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4). Far better to let God's love reorient our lives and to rejoice that his love for us makes life forever worth living.

Our relationships to one another are our true riches. Our relationship to God in Christ is our true and lasting wealth. Lent is a great time to re-examine all that and to be present with one another and with our Father in heaven.

COLUMN

Trophy wives and husbands

Trophy wife is an interesting and somewhat derogatory term usually pertaining to the much younger spouse of a wealthy, narcissistic man out to impress his peers.

The wife, perceived to possess little merit beyond her beauty, is often referred to as a "gold digger".

Fueled by the silent rage of his own ego, the room temperature rises dramatically when a man walks in with his trophy wife by his arm.

Men of the husband's age also demonstrate their disapproval of the trophy wife by mumbling something like "he's probably lucky at cards, too." Shallowness is not a male habit; it's part of who we are.

The late Playboy Playmate Anna Nicole Smith was seen as both a trophy wife and a gold digger when she married 89-year-old millionaire J. Howard Marshall at the age of 26.

The wedding was spread over a three-day period to allow Marshall to take a series of long



naps.

Old J. was unable to impress anybody since all his peers had predeceased him. In the end Anna was accused of "robbing the casket".

As far as "trophy husbands" go, Demi Moore married a goaty one and Joan Collins needed a trophy case to keep all hers. Sometimes Paul McCartney is referred to as a trophy husband. Beatles fans believe he deserves a trophy for time served with Heather Mills.

The Duchess of Alba, Spain's 85-year-old billionaire recently married a man 24 years younger. Considering her five billion dollar fortune, Alfonso Diez is not just digging for gold, he's punning for platinum and drilling for diamonds.



Reuters

Spain's Duchess of Alba
 Cayetana Fitz-James Stuart y Silva and her husband Alfonso Diéze pose before a presentation in Portugal.

All this because last week's Canadian Press headline really caught my eye: "Trophy husband" awarded \$157,000 from B.C. Widows?

Gordon Walker is 66 years old. Apparently he outgrew the term "toy boy" when he filed for his Old Age Security Pension.

Valeste Fortune Brown, a former world-class figure skater, model and wealthy widow has been ordered by a British

Columbian court to pay her so-called trophy husband more than \$157,000 to support after a 14-year relationship. She's 66 years old.

Before they met, Walker lived on welfare and was periodically employed, but then became a "kept man" and "economically dependent", with Brown covering all of his living expenses and luxuries, including about 60 trips around the world.

According to the court ruling, "At 66 years of age, the breakup of their relationship has caused Mr. Walker to be economically disadvantaged in terms of what he had been accustomed."

Not to mention the shock from trading in a Grand Duplex Outside Suite on the Queen Mary 2 for a pay text in Stanley Park.

The court ruling also concluded that "his future job prospects are extremely limited." Well, I'm not so sure about that. Betty White is still alive.

see THOMAS | page 5

■ THOMAS

Her middle name really is 'Fortune'

FROM PAGE 4

After her second husband died in 1994, Brown was left with an estate of nearly \$8 million that included investments, property and retirement income so yeah, Valerie's middle name really is 'Fortune'.

Gordon Walker was also issued a restraining order against writing a memoir of the couple's sexual experiences. With Mrs. Brown claiming Walker was just "a platonic live-in friend" do not expect Fifty Shades of Grey. More like Late Nights with Earl Grey.

Mrs. Brown characterized Walker as "a male escort and travelling companion as well as a heavy luggage porter." From my experience any man who has ever travelled with a woman has earned the title of heavy luggage porter. I've been fighting for years to have hermis covered by my travel insurance.

At some point after Brown had provided him with a \$10,000 Rolex, a Lexus SUV and bank accounts to cover his expenses, she felt he was abusing her credit cards and withdrawing funds from a joint account.

Reading from the news report, it seems Gordon Walker did not see the end of the relationship coming. Expecting another handout, he got foot in the bum instead.

Here there are 10 sure signs that your career

as a trophy husband' may be coming to an end.

- Your wife informs you that she wants to renew her wedding vows and she generously offers to put you on the guest list.

- Asked at a party "How's your young man?" you overhear her say "Not here tonight."

- As you both leave the house for a Caribbean cruise, she asks you what time your ship leaves.

- You notice the new vanity plate she had put on your SUV reads "WASHES"

- Riffling through some papers on the kitchen table, you notice your name is not mentioned in her will but it does appear on a change of address form.

- You notice she's behaving very strangely by letting you have the last word.

- You're standing at the curb when the garbage truck pulls up and she starts yelling from the house: Jump In!

- You pick up the local paper and see a photo of your dog above the caption "Black Lab nipped of custody battle."

- For Halloween she buys you a tight-fitting superhero costume known as "Mooch Man."

And finally you know your days as a trophy husband are numbered when you're presented with a separation agreement that refers to you as "Irreconcilably Turnished."

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CONTRACT FOR TRIB

The guide to all things Port Colborne will soon be in the mail.

City council awarded the contract for creation of its community leisure guide to The Tribune on Monday night.

The booklet, to be sent out to homes twice a year to outline spring/summer and fall/winter programs and events, will be created, produced and distributed at no cost to the city, as the guide will be paid for through advertising.

OH, A DEERE

Port Colborne is adding a new John Deere backhoe-loader to its fleet.

The city's 2006 Volvo backhoe-loader has experienced out-of-warranty performance issues that have become costly to repair and maintain.

The list price of the new piece of equipment was \$109,310, but with the 2006 trade-in, city staff were able to get the price down to \$96,400.

Council budgeted \$112,550 for the backhoe-loader for 2013.

BEACH RFP ISSUED

The City of Port Colborne is issuing a request for proposals for operation of Nickel Beach for the coming season.

Beach operations have been both leased out and handled in-house by the

city in the past, but the municipality has been overseeing operations consistently since 2007.

A proponent has already approached the city with ideas for the 2013 season.

SMALL PETS COULD BE NAKES

With the arrival of spring comes the return of an abundance of wildlife to the lakeside city, including some creatures residents should be cautious of.

Ward 4 Councillor Barbara Butters issued a reminder to the public that coyotes are roaming the city's rural areas.

Coyotes are "very active" in Port Colborne this time of year, she said at Monday night's city council meeting, and while offering up tips for homeowners encountering the canines on their property.

She reminded residents to make sure their garbage and compost is secure when outdoors, and suggested residents invest in outdoor motion lights.

A watchful eye, she added, should be kept on small cats and dogs that "could be lunch" if a hungry coyote comes by.

"Coyotes are very opportunistic," she said, adding many are having pups this time of year and are eagerly searching the area for anything that can be considered food.

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■ ROAD ALLOWANCE: Land has no value to township

Land to be sold to neighbours

DAVE JOHNSON
 InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — A road allowance with no value to the township will be sold off to abutting landowners.

Ald. Betty Konec asked if the chunk of property had already been deemed surplus or if the township was putting the cart before the horse.

Township planner Grant Munday said the way the land disposal policy works, council does not get involved until the end of the process.

In his report to council,

It said under the policy the public can make a request to purchase township land. The land at one time formed part of Barker Rd., which was realigned in 2002.

Staff, he added, looked at the marketability of the land, and whether it had any value to

Wainfleet for future road expansion.

"In this case, part of the road had already been sold to the Mayr family and serves no purpose for the township."

Munday said both landowners wanted a piece of the land, and all parties spoke to work out the sale.

There is a municipal drain by the land and Hydro One will be granted an easement

over the property.

The landowners will pay for the appraised value of the land, remaining application fees, survey fees, legal fees and appraisal fee.

The land was appraised at \$2,500 and the Mayr family will buy 1,741.6 square metres of the land, with Loeffen Farms Ltd. buying 237.3 square metres.



Munday



Konec



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Irish eyes are smilin'



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Chief Massimo Capra dyed his moustache green for St. Patrick's Day. He did it for Tourism Ireland's Great Green Off. The Great Green Off is a contest inviting people all over the world to create and share their own greening video or picture, with the best submission scoring a trip to Ireland this year for The Gathering. The Gathering is a series of events and festivals to celebrate Irish culture, history and genealogy.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Frank Greco, left, the Travel Guy, poses with a green cookie moustache, after watching chef Massimo Capra dye his green for St. Patrick's Day. Greco, a Port Colborne native, produces Capra's cooking show, *Gourmet Escapes*.

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■ PUBLIC SAFETY

Wainfleet emergency services plan to cost nearly \$20,000

InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — The township will pay \$19,475 for a master emergency services plan that will serve the community and fire service for the next five years.

The plan will address fire department operations, planning, fire prevention, training and education, communications, apparatus and equipment, maintenance, human resources, station locations, budgets and large-scale emergency preparedness.

Ald. Ted Hessels asked why fire Chief Harry Flagg and fire department chair Ald. David Wyatt recommended the proposal from T.L.

Powell and Associates Ltd., which was \$2,000 more than another offer bid.

Flagg said only two proposals were received by the township.

"Myself, Ald. Wyatt and Scott (Luey, township CAO) went through the receipts. We broke it down ... and thought we'd get a better product from this company," the chief said.

Wyatt said Powell & Associates has worked with similar-sized communities and would have a better understanding of Wainfleet's needs.

Fire chiefs from Grimsby and Thorold were consulted as references for Powell & Associates.



Flagg



Hessels

Agapé Valley

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■ **LONG BEACH:** Former Concessi's store eyed by township

Paid parking possible for Augustine Beach

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Beachgoers in Wainfleet could see washrooms and a parking lot go up around the former Concessi's store on Lakeshore Rd.

And it could cost \$20 a car for parking, council heard recently.

"We've had numerous requests over a number of years, decades before my time here, from the folks who live in Long Beach to enforce rules and behaviour on the beach," said township CAO Scott Luey.

Long Beach is known for Augustine Beach, which is frequented by residents and people from outside the township. It's also the site of Beach Day, when students from area high schools ditch class to soak up the sun.

Residents have complained about drinking on the beach, inappropriate behaviour, people trespassing and parking.

Luey said part of the township's recreation master plan is about providing more beach access, and a parking lot would help achieve that goal.

Council heard there would be costs associated with a one-year trial project at the Concessi's site, including for possible staffing costs, but Luey said those would be offset by charging a fee for parking — probably \$20 a carload, the same as the cost of a parking fine in

Wainfleet.

Mayor April Jeffs said the cost of parking may deter some youths from using the beach as a party spot, and as a result attracting more families.

"People go on about how wonderful our beaches are and we want to encourage more of those people to come here," she said.

Township staff had considered an automated parking system, but decided using students was a better option. Students would collect the money and issue some sort of pass or tag to identify people who paid for parking. And using students would create a few job positions for Wainfleeters.

Ald. Richard Dyskstra said he liked the idea of the "very generous offer" made by the Concessi's owner to use the former store parking lot. However, he was concerned about a sign in the front of the store advertising retail space for rent. The alderman is in favour of new business in the township, but wondered how a new business would fit if the township was taking up parking space.

Luey wasn't sure how long that sign had been in the window, but said he would contact the owner this week and discuss the concern.

Council gave Luey the go-ahead to carry out negotiations with the property owner.

dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca

■ **VALE CENTRE:** Parking problems are being addressed

Plan being developed for off-ice action

MARYANNE FIRTH
Tribune Staff

PORT COLBORNE — City staff are working to iron the kinks in the parking plan for Vale Health and Wellness Centre.

Concerns were raised by staff last week about parking challenges encountered at the Elizabeth St. facility, particularly during popular events, such as junior B hockey games, that draw large crowds.

There have been issues with vehicles parking in fire lanes and vehicles double-parking.

Armed with a plan to address the issue, Port Colborne's bylaw enforcement officers were present Friday night as the Port Colborne Pirates

faced off against the Welland Junior Canadians.

The hockey team also offered up two volunteers to assist in monitoring parking in the centre's gravel back lot, which has seen its fair share of issues as there are no designated parking stalls.

"It did help to a large extent," Harry Hakim said of the new measures.

Port Colborne's manager of community services said parking was "at a premium" during Friday night's game.

Hakim estimated game attendance to be in excess of 1,000 people, even pushing toward 1,100. That's excluding members of the YMCA or other members of the public at the centre for other purposes.

see VALE | page 16

■ EASTER EGG HUNTS

Port on Easter Bunny's map

SARAH FERGUSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The Easter Bunny will be hopping his way into the lakeside city later this month.

The City of Port Colborne and its mayors youth advisory council will host Port Colborne's inaugural Easter egg hunt Saturday, March 30, at 10 a.m. at Roselawn Centre.

"If the weather is better, we're hoping for at least 100 children," said Gina Murdoch, the city's events co-ordinator.

Children ages 10 and under are invited to participate for a \$2 donation in support of Port Colborne's skatepark. The egg hunt will go on rain or shine. If the weather is poor, the event will be moved indoors, Murdoch said.

Each hunter will receive a bag full of treats and goodies after the hunt has finished.

"Kids can find as many eggs as they can, and we will have six special prizes for those who find special eggs."

Those children will receive prizes that will be announced the day of the event.

Kids are welcome to enjoy colouring, face painting and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Registration for the egg hunt begins at 9:30 a.m.

Murdoch said the city has wanted to organize an egg hunt for a while now, and with the help of MYAC, the time is now. As it is the first year of the hunt, Murdoch said organizers will "see how it goes." The hope is that the egg hunt becomes a tradition in Port Colborne drawing hundreds of people to the event to have fun and make memories.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: s_ferguson25

Who: City of Port Colborne and mayor's youth advisory council

What: Hosting the inaugural Easter egg hunt for children 10 and under.

When: Saturday, March 30, at 10 a.m.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

Where: The front lawn of the Roselawn Centre.

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■ BOIL WATER ADVISORY AREA

Wainfleet repeals lakeshore development freeze

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — A bylaw which froze development in the boil water advisory area of Wainfleet for nearly the past two years was repealed.

Township planner Grant Munday said the control bylaw approved and put into effect in June 2011 was set to expire this June. Planning staff reviewed the pros and cons of

repealing it before that date.

The boil water advisory area lies south of the Gord Harry Trail to the lakeshore to Wainfleet's borders with neighbouring municipalities. Residents could still apply for building permits and minor variances under the bylaw in place but had to meet all zoning and other bylaw requirements.

Ald. Richard Dykstra asked with the repeal of the bylaw whether

people who applied for new permits would fall under old zoning bylaws or new ones passed by council.

Munday said the township's new zoning bylaws are drafts only. They won't be put into law until a meeting with Wainfleet's official plan is resolved. The plan has been taken to the Ontario Municipal Board by Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, which states the plan does not meet Provincial Policy

Statements.

Munday said new zoning bylaws will actually allow for more lot coverage in different areas of the lakeshore, which applicants could use as a template.

Mayor April Jeffs said people could be better off going with the new bylaws, even though none are officially in place yet.

Dykstra asked Munday if he's seen many people coming in for

applications for building along the lakeshore area.

Munday said there are people who require minor variances, between five and seven of them; and there are 10 to 15 serious projects that people want to move forward.

"Most of what has been proposed would comply with the new bylaws ... there's nothing extreme being proposed from what I could see," he said.

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■ PARKING

Pirates club credited with helping out

FROM PAGE 14

"We were maxed out," he said, and despite the packed lot, people controlling the parking were able to ensure fire lanes remained clear.

The combination of volunteers and bylaw enforcement "seemed to operate well" to direct drivers, Hakim said, adding a similar approach will likely be taken in the future.

"Getting co-operation from the Junior B was pivotal," he said, crediting the organization for assisting.

For the most part, the public has been "quite receptive" to the parking officials on site, he added.

But there are still challenges and, in turn, frustrations that exist when it comes to parking capacity at the centre.

Once the parking lots are full, drivers are encouraged to park elsewhere — although official overflow parking has yet to be designated, Hakim said. Preliminary discussions have begun about paving the back lot and designating overflow space.

For those planning to attend big events at the centre, Hakim suggests carpooling in an effort to avoid the parking dilemma.

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■ **TURBINES:** Power to travel through underground network

Wainfleet Wind Energy applies for distribution facilities

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Power from Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc.'s proposed wind turbine farm will be

collected through an underground distribution system.

The company, which partnered with Rankin Construction Inc. last year, applied to the Ontario Energy Board for the distribution

facilities.

Notice of the application and a hearing were presented to Wainfleet council in the form of correspondence.

Council took the matter behind

closed doors based on advice from township clerk Tanya Lamb.

Township CAO Scott Luey said the matter fell under the Municipal Act for litigation or potential litigation, including matters before tribunals.

"Council could ask me to speak to our lawyer about this," Luey said before heading into the closed meeting.

Wainfleet council has passed a moratorium on wind turbines and a two-kilometre setback bylaw for turbines from residences.

That bylaw is currently before the courts. Hearings were held Wednesday and Thursday in St. Catharines, as Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc. has filed a lawsuit against the township over it.

In its application to the energy board, the wind company, owned by the Loeffen family and Rankin, are proposing to build a 27.6-kilovolt underground distribution system for its five turbines. Those turbines are expected to generate

nine megawatts of power.

"The applicant proposes to install the distribution system underground upon private and public lands in the township and Niagara Region. This application is in reference to the public lands within the authority of the township only," said the application. Wainfleet council was presented with.

It also said the company has not been able to reach an agreement with the township with respect to the location of the proposed distribution system within road allowances and is requesting the energy board to issue an order to determine the location of the system.

Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc. asked for a written hearing rather than one at which all parties appear. An oral hearing could be requested by the township, but it would have to prove why one was necessary.

dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca

PORTAL VILLAGE PLAZA

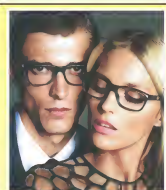
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■ **FESTIVALS:** Motivation for tastiest party's 20th year

Food fest, Canal Days make Ontario's top 100 list

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — South

Niagara knows how to party — at least according to Festival and Events Ontario. The organization recently

named its top 100 festivals and events throughout the province, and both Niagara Food Festival in Welland and

Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival in Port Colborne made the cut. Dunnville's annual Mudcat Festival was

also selected for the honour. The awards for the top 100 were handed out on March 2 during FEO's annual

conference. Food Fest, Canal Days and the Mudcat Festival have each made the list for several consecutive years.

"It's pretty humbling to be associated with the big guys. We're excited," said food festival event manager Jane Thompson, who was able to attend the conference earlier this month.

The conference is an ideal networking opportunity, she said, as organizers get to learn what works and doesn't work at festivals across Ontario, while also getting connected with a wealth of suppliers.

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INPORT NEWS

Readers' Choice

2013

Cast Your Vote!

Pick the Best In Port Colborne

All readers who submit a Readers' Choice ballot will have their names entered into a draw and the lucky winner of this draw will receive a \$25 Seaway Mall Gift Card!

Fill in your ballot for the InPort Readers' Choice Awards. Write the names of your favourite businesses on the line provided. You can vote for as many different types of businesses as you wish in each of the categories. Those merchants and businesses who receive the most votes will win the prestigious Readers' Choice Award. The winners will be announced in a special section of InPort News in April, 2013. Watch for our prizes! Your ballot is your entry to our prizes! So fill it out and send it today! The deadline for submission is 4 p.m. Friday, March 22nd, 2013.

Limit One Ballot Per Reader.

Please note: All categories do not have to be fully completed.

Best Place for Food and Drink

Best Overall Restaurant _____
 Breakfast _____
 Brunch _____
 Chicken Wings _____
 Chinese Restaurant _____
 Cup of Coffee _____
 Dessert _____
 Doughnuts _____
 Drive Thru _____
 Family Restaurant _____
 Fast Food Restaurant _____
 Fish & Chips _____
 French Fries _____
 Hamburger _____
 Ice Cream Parlour _____
 Italian Restaurant _____
 Lunch _____
 Outdoor Patio _____
 Pizza _____
 Restaurant with a View _____
 Sub _____

Best Entertainment

Bar _____
 Sports Bar _____
 Golf Course _____

Best Shopping

Antiques _____
 Appliances _____
 Auto Parts _____
 Bakery _____
 Bedding _____
 Butcher Shop _____
 Carpet/Flooring _____

Best Shopping Continued

Convenience Store _____
 Dollar Store _____
 Florist _____
 Furniture Store _____
 Gardening Centre _____
 Gift Shop _____
 Grocery Store _____
 Hardware Store _____
 Health Food Store _____
 Home Electronics Store _____
 Jewellery Store _____
 Lumber Yard _____
 Men's Store _____
 Muffler Shop _____
 New Cars _____
 Office Supplies _____
 Optical Store _____
 Paint/Wallpaper _____
 Pet Store _____
 Pharmacy _____
 Shoe Store _____
 Sporting Goods _____
 Tires _____
 Used Cars _____
 Water Company _____
 Women's Store _____

Best Services

Auto Body Shop _____
 Auto Repair _____
 Bank _____
 Barber Shop _____
 Beauty Salon _____
 Car Wash _____

Best Services Continued

Carpet Cleaning _____
 Catering Company _____
 Credit Union _____
 Dance Studio _____
 Dry Cleaner _____
 Financial Planner _____
 Fitness Club _____
 Gas Station _____
 Heating & Air Conditioning _____
 House Cleaning Service _____
 Insurance Brokerage _____
 Investment Company _____
 Landscape & Lawn Service _____
 Legal Firm _____
 Locksmith _____
 Lube / Oil Change _____
 Mortal Arts _____
 Pet Grooming _____
 Photo Finishing _____
 Plumbing _____
 Roofing _____
 Signage Company _____
 Travel Agency _____

Contest Rules:

Only original newspaper ballots accepted. No mechanical reproductions allowed. Employees of the InPort News, and their immediate families are not eligible. Winners of the Grand Prize will be determined by a random draw from all entries received by 4 p.m. Friday, March 22nd, 2013. Winners will be contacted by phone. You do not have to fully complete ballot to win.

Name: _____

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This coming from a customer who had tried every other natural remedy under the sun in the past few years to take away her pain. In fact, the owner of The Healthy Cupboard couldn't believe his ears. He had finally found the perfect product to stop his customer's miseries. This is what every owner of a health food store dreams about, a natural product that receives so many outstanding testimonials on such a wide variety of health issues. "I had recommended a new product called LeafSource, which we recently started carrying. We have had tremendous success with this product, and almost everyone we have recommended it to over the last few months has come back and thanked us over and over again!" said Ian. Before trying LeafSource, the woman had complained about her ongoing joint pain and was at her wit's end. Although she had experienced some relief through the numerous natural remedies she had tried over the years, the pain would never fully go away. "She returned to my store, in tears, less than one week after buying LeafSource. I didn't know what to make of this woman standing in front of me crying, until she told me that within a few days of taking LeafSource her pain started to disappear and within a week it was completely gone - as if it was never there." Ian goes on, "This coming from a woman whose painful joints and ongoing sciatica were so bad just one week earlier, that the pain was unbearable but now has completely subsided." By now you are probably

wondering what is LeafSource and why it is so effective? LeafSource is a 100% natural product derived from a proprietary organic mineral composite with over ten years of university research. LeafSource helps regulate the inflammatory process and the body's ability to repair itself. The vast majority (70 - 80%) of the population over the age of 50 have joint problems — often called osteoarthritis. This is due to the natural (or unnatural) wear and tear on joint tissue that develops through the aging process. With joint inflammation, movement is limited and pain can be constant. LeafSource seems to have the ability to help people get their mobility and zest for life back. Millions of people seek treatment for their joint and inflammation problems by resorting to expensive, toxic prescription drugs (i.e., NSAIDs) with multiple side effects. These range from nausea and vomiting to serious intestinal disorders (bleeding, gas, pain) and even kidney and liver failure. Isn't that too large a price to pay for a little pain relief? LeafSource is a safe alternative to these destructive anti-inflammatory drugs that cause more problems than they solve. There are absolutely no side effects and it doesn't interfere with any other medications. Controlled experiments and observations have revealed that LeafSource is a potent anti-inflammatory that has been shown to bring a reduction to inflammation and pain within a few days. People notice great results in terms of more energy and less pain by taking

anywhere from 2 to 6 capsules/day. Typical maintenance is usually 1 capsule twice daily. This product gets results! LeafSource is scientifically validated through more than 10 years of research at 4 universities, including the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mercer University. Aside from its incredible anti-inflammatory and pain reducing ability, it has also been shown to improve the performance of your daily nutrition and vitamin programs. It helps increase the absorption of vital nutrients, which in turn helps these nutrients work better. Better absorption = better results! It's almost as if they have become supercharged! LeafSource has also been shown to help enhance energy levels, improve intestinal health, strengthen hair, skin and nails and improve immune function. To see someone go from intense pain to a new lease on life within a week is truly incredible. Imagine being able to move freely without pain. Who wouldn't want to get out of bed in the morning with more energy? It's amazing how much of this stuff we take for granted, until it's gone! Ian adds, "I often recommend that LeafSource be taken with other natural joint products in order to help them work better and provide even faster relief. One of the things I hear most often from people who have tried LeafSource is they just plain feel better, have more energy and less pain. We're so confident, we guarantee LeafSource 100%! That alone should be enough to try this incredible product."

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